

Since September 11th, many citizens have chosen to drive their vehicles to work, to recreation and to vacation sites, rather than take other means of public transportation. This means that consumers will be spending an ever-increasing amount of time in their vehicles. And, that means that these vehicles will need more repairs and parts replaced.

Another consequence of September 11th is the attack on America's economic foundation. Many businesses will close their doors due to the inability to continue to provide consumer services. Now, more than ever, we in Congress must work to bolster business, not hinder it with the economic chains of monopolies. Passage of HR 2735 will keep the doors open for many in the automotive aftermarket, allowing the domino effect of recovery to continue.

HR 2735 will open the door to motoring consumers who are away from home, whether for business or pleasure, to have unforeseen repairs and parts replaced at the shop of their choice and with the parts of their choice. HR 2735 will allow motoring consumers to dispense with fears of being caught in strange localities or being forced back to dealerships. Consumers will be able to make competitive choices.

For several years, Congress mandated that vehicles come manufactured with a computer system to monitor vehicle emissions. As vehicles have advanced, so have the computer systems installed which now control vital systems such as brakes, ignition, ignition keys, air bags, steering mechanisms and climate control. What began as a clean air measure became an unintended "vehicle in itself" to a repair and parts information monopoly by car manufacturers.

The end result is that motorists have become chained to the car manufacturers and their car dealers in order to have their vehicles repaired and parts replaced. Instead of exercising America's free-market ability to choose the automotive technician, shop and parts of their choice—or even work on the vehicles themselves, this lock-out of information has forced motorists to return to car dealers and forced them in many instances into paying higher, noncompetitive costs. Simple tasks such as having an ignition key duplicated can cost \$45 or more.

Passage of HR 2735 is essential to the economic structure of the vehicle independent repair industry, as well as the limited budgets of many consumers and their safety.

Passage of HR 2735 will allow motorists who do not live near car dealerships to have their vehicles quickly and efficiently repaired, without being forced into driving a great distance in a problematic car to a dealership, jeopardizing their safety and that of others. It will allow motorists to work on their vehicles and will allow motorists to save money.

Passage of HR 2735 will empower motorists and will not restrict their choices of repair shops, including the desire of those who wish to go to car dealerships. It will allow motorists to actually own the repair and parts information to their own vehicles and to be the ultimate decisionmakers—instead of the car manufacturers—of their own vehicles.

Now more than ever is the time for Congress to keep consumers and small business sound, not pigeon-holed into unnecessary and expensive monopolies. Freedom to choose and to compete is the American Way.

POMONA VALLEY WORKSHOP'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2001

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and honor the accomplishments of the Pomona Valley Workshop on its 35th Anniversary of dedicated service to individuals with developmental disabilities in Western San Bernardino County and Eastern Los Angeles County.

The Pomona Valley Workshop is one of the largest employers in the city of Montclair and strives to maintain the highest of standards in its provision of traditional and innovative services. As an active member of the local community, the Workshop's efforts to improve the public's understanding of issues which affect persons with disabilities have resulted in strong community support and volunteer efforts.

I salute the Pomona Valley Workshop on the outstanding role it has played in assisting adults with disabilities achieve their highest level of employment and community integration. I wish them continued success in their exemplary endeavors.

ATTACKS ON SIKHS SUBSIDING— STILL UNDER SIEGE IN INDIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the attacks on Sikhs and other Americans in the wake of the September 11 attacks have subsided. While there are still some incidents, Sikhs, Muslims, and other Americans are safer now than they were a week or two ago. That is good news.

However, Sikhs continue to be under assault in India. The Indian government holds over 52,000 Sikhs as political prisoners. It has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. A few months ago, Indian troops were caught red-handed trying to set fire to a Gurdwara (a Sikh temple), but Sikh and Muslim villagers prevented them from carrying out this atrocity.

This is part of a long pattern of violation of the rights of Sikhs and other minorities by the Indian government. The attacks on Sikhs in America, which are terribly unfortunate and should be condemned by all, have been incidents carried out by individuals. That is a key difference. Much of the problem is that since the Sikhs don't have their own country, Americans and others don't know who they are. This is one more reason why a free Khalistan is essential.

Khalistan is the Sikh homeland which declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. This week marks Khalistan's independence anniversary. It will also see the annual convention of the Council of Khalistan, the government pro tempore of Khalistan which leads its independence struggle.

Given India's apparent reluctance to cooperate with the United States in our war on terrorism, American support for a free Khalistan and for freedom for the Kashmiris, for pre-

dominantly Christian Nagaland, and for all the other nations seeking their freedom is more urgent than ever. We must do what we can to extend the glow of freedom all over the world. We can help that along by maintaining our sanctions on India, by cutting off our aid to India until human rights are respected, and by supporting an internationally-supervised plebiscite on the question of independence for all the nations of South Asia. Our war on terrorism is about preserving freedom. Let's not forget that freedom is universal.

TRIBUTE TO TY MARBUT AND OTHER YOUNG MONTANA HUNTERS

HON. DENNIS R. REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2001

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, hunting in Montana is one of our most popular time-honored traditions. Each fall thousands of Montana men and women traverse our mountains, forests and prairies in pursuit of a wide range of large and small game.

One of the greatest stalwarts of the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is Gary Marbut who is president of the Montana Shooting Sports Association. Gary works tirelessly with the Montana Congressional Delegation to protect our vanishing right to keep and bear arms.

The June 2001 issue of the National Rifle Association's "American Hunter" contains Gary's article "A Kid's First Elk Rifle." It details the strong father and son bonding involved in his son Ty's preparations to hunt elk and get comfortable with the proper rifle. I commend my colleagues to read this article that embodies how hunting and family values are still very much in vogue in Montana.

A KID'S FIRST ELK RIFLE

(By Gary Marbut)

Tyrel turned 11 last fall, which means he's old enough to hunt elk when he passes hunter safety. I began thinking what the criteria would be for a good elk rifle for an 11-year-old boy. It would need to be light enough to carry, pack enough punch to take the animal, have suitable accuracy for successful 200-yard shots, and minimal recoil so as not to terrify a young shooter and cause him to flinch.

Fortunately, there are so many choices the real problem is not finding something suitable, but narrowing the field. I first looked at my own collection. A rifle that I've always liked is my Ruger semi-auto carbine in .44 Magnum. This rifle has a clear and wide little 4X scope with the old post reticle.

This seemed the ideal choice for Ty. It has a short stock, much of the recoil is soaked up by the semi-auto action, the .44 Magnum is enough for elk with well-placed shots, and since I hunt elk with a .44 Magnum revolver, we could practice with, carry, and use the same ammo. I would prefer to shoot elk with this rifle under 150 yards, and I did ponder the safety aspect of a semi-auto for a kid's first hunting rifle. However, this rifle had one large added benefit: it is the same size and shape as a Ruger 10/22, and Ty could hone his shooting skills with my 10/22 and cheaper ammo.

The idea was fine until I suggested it to Ty. "Nope," he said. "Nothing magnum. Too much recoil." Kids can be notional, and I

didn't want to push him. I wanted his first hunting season to be something he'd anticipate and remember.

So I started asking experienced hunting and shooting friends about how they would solve my problem. What amazed me was how wide-ranging the answers were. Some said to get him some sort of "oh-my-gosh" magnum and let him learn to shoot and pack it. Others advised that a well-placed head shot on elk with a .223 would always take it down. And I heard everything in between.

I finally decided to narrow the field by choosing what I determined was the minimum, fully elk-capable caliber. Admitting a bias for .30-caliber cartridges, I finally chose the .308 Win. for Ty. I found that if I looked hard enough I could find a Remington 700 in a short-stocked, short-barreled youth configuration, and with a synthetic stock. I had a local dealer order it for me and it arrived a few days before Christmas, in just enough time to slap a 6X Weaver scope on it. It did look nice under the tree, and the look on Ty's face when he opened it promised a great hunting season.

Still, there was a lot of work to be done. I belong to the school that believes a person should put a lot of ammo through the gun they'll hunt with before they go hunting. I had hopes of Ty being able to put several hundred rounds through his new rifle before hunting season, but because recoil had been one of my original concerns, and since this youth model was lightweight, there was no way I was going to subject Ty to several hundred rounds of full-house 308.

I ended up handloading some light "plinker" rounds that Ty liked shooting immediately. We practiced until he could place five-round groups of this ammo into a two-inch circle at 100 yards. Spring came around and Ty passed the Montana Hunter Education class, even becoming a junior instructor—quite proud to be the only 11 year-old with that status. A prairie dog shoot later in June allowed him lots of shooting, the two of us going through several gun changes and some 2,000 rounds of ammo in one afternoon alone.

Between the prairie dog shoot and other practice at the Deer Creek Range near Missoula, Ty consumed almost 400 rounds of his light practice ammo over the summer. The next project was selecting the right ammo for his elk hunt. I tested several kinds, but the bullet I finally selected as the best compromise of weight, shape, cost, and performance was the Hornady 165-grain soft-point boat-tail. Backed by Varget powder in Lake City brass, the bullet would run out of Ty's barrel at about 2800 fps and group five shots into about 1¼ inches at 100 yards. I should say that this ammo makes Ty's light rifle kick pretty good—he has never fired a round of it. He's carrying it elk hunting now, and I've promised him that when he shoots at an elk, he won't notice the kick at all.

Ty is 12 now, and though it is currently the second week of elk season in Montana, school has limited the youngster to only two days afield so far. And though we haven't seen any elk, there's lots of good hunting within a two-hour drive of where we live. Soon, we hope to be able to put to the final test, a kid's first elk rifle.

TRACKING FOREIGN VISITORS AND STUDENTS IS A PROTECTION FOR ALL

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the October 1, 2001, and the October 2, 2001, editorials from the Omaha World-Herald entitled "Loosey-Goosey Borders" and "Loosey-Goosey Borders: II." For many years, this Member has argued that it is critical to U.S. security interests to have our government energetically reform and effectively implement visa control for foreign nationals and to screen those foreign nationals who are seeking to be accepted as legitimate refugees or immigrants. As the October 1st editorial notes, "U.S. law enforcement agencies should know who is entering the country and where they are supposed to be." Sadly, it took the horrific terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, for the American public to fully understand why that is the case.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Oct. 1, 2001]

LOOSEY-GOOSEY BORDERS

One of the greatest challenges facing the United States now is how to maintain an open, free society while protecting the country from terrorists who exploit that freedom. A key element of the question is the millions of foreigners who enter the United States each year, some of whom have had terror, not touring, on their mind.

In 1998, about 30 million people entered the country on visitors' visas, a form that is relatively easy to obtain, sometimes after only a few routine questions. Then this is what happens: nothing. Once these visitors arrive, the U.S. government washes its hands of them. They are never checked on unless they commit a felony of some kind. In practice, they are free to go home or disappear into American life, as they wish.

Many of them never leave. One estimate suggests that half of the 7 million illegal aliens in this country didn't enter illegally but simply overstayed their visas. And the Immigration and Naturalization Service has no idea who they are, where they could be or what they might be up to. Officials say that 16 of the 19 hijacker-terrorists entered the United States on temporary visas as students, workers or tourists.

U.S. borders aren't simply porous, said Mark Krikorian, director of the Center for Immigration Studies in Washington; they are, to all intents and purposes, wide open. That is crazy. An open border is an open invitation to terrorism.

First, the painfully obvious. The INS should keep track of all who visit the United States, where they are and when they are required to leave. The act of not leaving should trigger a reaction from INS enforcement officers—perhaps a letter of inquiry, perhaps arrest, depending on the potential threat.

Keeping track of visitors will take a computer system, a reform mandated by Congress in 1996 but abandoned when border states objected to the delays and loss of business. It will mean time lost and, in all likelihood, traffic jams, particularly at busy U.S.-Mexican and U.S.-Canadian borders. But it is vital to check foreign visitors both in and out. Not to do so invites what has happened.

Protecting the United States may require that the embassy and consulate staffs where visas are issued be better trained or enlarged. They are the first line of defense

against attack, and they should act positively, checking backgrounds and criminal records of would-be tourists, particularly if the applicant is from a problematic country such as Iran.

The changes needed might also involve modifications in the visa waiver program, by which nationals in 29 friendly countries such as Great Britain and Norway are admitted to this country without the formality of a visa. At the very least, these visitors, too, should be checked in and out via computer. Because the criminal world so highly values stolen or forged passports from waiver countries, more stringent security provisions might be needed.

Foreign visitors shouldn't look at increased scrutiny or security as an accusation or violation of rights. They are, after all, guests, here on sufferance and required to obey the law. Few other countries have been as wide open as the United States in the past, and even fewer are likely to be in the future.

U.S. law enforcement agencies should know who is entering the country and where they are supposed to be. These organizations can then judge potential risks and problems and handle them as the law allows. When the INS keeps closer track of visitors, it isn't intended to harass but to identify, not to accuse but to protect. It's not xenophobia. It's self-defense.

And self-defense, within the context of freedom, has suddenly become of vital importance.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Oct. 2, 2001]

LOOSEY-GOOSEY BORDERS: II

As the United States moves to take control of its borders and keep track of foreign nationals entering the country, it is important to change the way student visas are handled, too.

About half a million foreign students enter the country every year, some headed for colleges or universities, some for vocational or language schools. The vast majority of them actually attend school.

Some, however, do not, and disappear into the population. In that category was one Hani Hanjour, who was supposed to study English at Holy Names College in Oakland, Calif. Ten months after he skipped out on his student visa, he and companions hijacked the jet that crashed into the Pentagon.

Hard as it might be to understand, schools are not required to notify the Immigration and Naturalization Service if foreign students fail to appear or drop out. Five years ago, Congress ordered the INS to begin tracking foreign visitors. That was to include students starting in 2003. But in August, a bill was introduced to end the system before it began.

The system would have issued cards with magnetic strips to students. The strips, containing personal information, would have to be swiped through a reader when the student entered the country and the cards would have to be shown to school authorities when they arrived on campus.

Then, campus officials would be required to report changes of address and other information concerning international students.

More than a hundred schools spoke out against the INS plan, as did NAFSA/Association of International Educators, a lobbying group. Many university officials worried that any identification system would discourage international students.

Perhaps it would, but it shouldn't. It is not unreasonable and it should not be intimidating to require foreign students not only to be what they claim—students—but to allow the immigration service to keep track of their whereabouts.